CRITICAL STUDY OF HISTORY

The Cause of Many Erroneous Statements Made by Noted Historians.

SOME LIGHT ON THE MIDDLE AGES

The Indiscreet Zeal and Premature Judgments of Writers-Exploring Original Sources of Historie Truth.

second source of error in historical writings. Mably, Hume, Robertson or Henry, treat indiscrete zeal to promote a cause. The the clergy or the church with fairness, not even with common honesty."

But outling to such men as Polerage Mail. ter stands with the Roman Materian Livy. He wrote in the time of Augustus, the golden go on recording the slanders age of Roman Hierature; and among the II- must next consider lustrious authors of that classic period he ranks in perfection of style as inferior to no other. Home was then mistress of the world, and Livy attempted to make her past hisand Livy attempted to make her past his-tory appear worthy of her present imperial dignity. It was not, therefore, so much his that most of the false accounts of our later object to search with scrupulous care for the precious vein of golden truth hid in the mass due to the fact that they pronounce Judgof traditions and written records. He had ment against them on account of their another object in view, the exaltation of his real ignorance on the subject, because they another object in view, the exaltation of his country; and he knew how to accomplish it. I do not mean to say that he would willingly have perverted a known fact or statement— I do not know whether he would or not-but he was guided by his dominant purpose of gloritying his country; and between two conflicting statements of his authorities it is not difficult to know which side he would have selected as better tuited for his end. His authorities, too, were not fully reliable. The official documents of the first four cenflames at the time of the Gallic invasion There were other records more or less cor rect at his disposal; but the events of the earliest periods were probably to be derived thirdly from traditions, annealies and ballads perhaps, recited like the romances the troubadours of later ages, and embodyins only what was more flattering to the people INDIFFERENCE TO TRUTH. Hence, we find two sources of errors in his

narrative, a want of documents, as with Herodotus, and a strong predisposition to make the Roman side of any question appear the better. How different the history of Rome and of her rival. Carthage, would ap pear if not a Livy but some Carthagenia of similar character had written the account I am forced by the evidence of the part to agree to some extent with the severe eriticism of Macaulay: "No historian with whom we are acquainted bas shown so com-plete an indifference to truth. He segme to have cared only about the picture-sque effect of his book and the honor of his courtry. On the other hand, we do not know, i the whole range of literature, an instance a bad thing so well done. The painting the parrative is, beyond description, vivid a graceful. The abundance of interesting sen nents and splendid imagery in the spe is almost miraculous. His mind is a so which is never overturned, a fountaly never seems to trickle. It pours forth pr was probably to this exuberance of language always fresh, always sweet, always pure. sooner yielded than repaired, that the critiapplied that expression which has been as much discussed, lactea ubertas. All the merits and all the defects of Livy take a coloring from the character of his nation He was a writer peculiarly Roman; the proud citizen of a commonwealth which had indeed lost the reality of liberty, but which still sacredly preserved its forms—in fact. subject of an arbitrary prince, but in his own estimation one of the masters of the world, with a hundred kings below him an world, with a hundred kings below him and only the gods above him." (Essays, History, Therefore, the history of Rome, as well as that of the eastern nations, has had to be rewritten and the task has been bravely attempted in this century. For many ages the world troubled itself very little about the truth or falsshood of Livy's story. Th Romans were pleased with it as it stood, an acon enough the barbarians, sweeping over Burope from the north, gave men other sub jects to think of than curious disquisitions When at last the renaissance of literature brought the new dawn of glory to ancien lore, admiration for the ancient classics was so intense that no one dreamed of question ing their historical truthfulness. Italian scholars were the first, as the German Nie buhr tells us in his "Lectures on Roman History," to suspect the imposition. The French followed; then the indefatigable Germans and the English took up the task and now we know that the history of Rome as it has been read by the world at large as it has been read by the world at large is not reliable. We know many portions where falsehood has cone in; but we do not yet know the whole truth; and we shall never know it fully till One wiser than Herodotus shall read out His universal hisbefore all nations assembled at the en

KNOWLEDGE OF THE MIDDLE AGES. But indiscrete zeal to promote a caus But indiscrete zeal to promote a cause of the takes the more odious course of blackening the character of an opponent. We have so far glanced at the history of the east and at that of classic Rome. We now ask the question, what about our knowledge of the middle ages? I am sorry to say that in this respect the English-speaking world is in still denser darkness. What Livy did for the glory of Rome a numerous chorus of modern historians, especially in English and German literature, have done for the glory of the Protestant reformation. its heroes, its motives, its principles, it mental, moral, physical, intellectual and re ligious achievements. To catch these the virtues of the ante-reformation period had to be ignored and denied or misinterpreted. Its faults had to be exhibited in a glaring light. And yet those were wonderful ages, to which no popular English historian has yet done anything like justice. Those age present the grandest display conceivable o the contest between brute force and spiritual power, of countless hordes of barbarians sweeping civilization from the face of the earth, and in its stead spreading at first only ruin and desolation; and then, at last meekly bowing their haughty necks beneath the gentle hand of Christianity, which con-trolled them in the person of an aged pontiff: thence returning to rebuild what they had before destroyed and rear upon the ruin of an effete civilization the grandest, the noblest institutions, physical, intellectual and social, that the world has ever beheld. What a theme for the pen of a truly great historian! The ignorant reader will not agree with me in this judgment; the truly learned will; the day is dawning when this will be the general verdict of history. Gibbon has left us his solemn wailings

Empire:" a far grander theme would be "The Rise and Triumph of Christian Civil-ization." The materials for such a history are abundant, but English historians have so far shrunk from exploring the field. The noble Digby has, it is true, published two very learned volumes on "The Ages of Faith," one of the most remarkable and instructive productions in our language. But though Hallam calls it one of the most fas-cinating books it is possible to meet, it is not such to the general reader on account of its very peculiar style. Our popular his-torians have woven a palf of misrepresentations and extended it over those marvelous ages, and after cruelly quenching their glories they have called them dark. Few dare look beneath that pall of prejudice ex-cept to seek there for scandals. And yet ages, and after cruelly quenching their glories they have called them dark. Few dare look beneath that pail of prejudice except to seek there for scandals. And yet Emorson said in an eration tellvered at fiarward: "In modern Europe the middle ages were called the dark ages ten centuries, from the fifth to the fifteenth. Who dares call them so now? • • The darkness of these times arises from our own want of information, not from the absence of intelligence that distinguished them. Human thought was never more active and never produced greater results in any pried of thought was never more active and never ing of much value in religion, and they were produced greater results in any period of the world." (Desmond's Mooted Questions, could possess. There seemed indeed a con-(Desmond's Mooted Questions,

ORIGINAL SOURCES OF TRUTH Sir Francis Palgrave, being of Jewish extraction (his former name was Cohen), felt no interest in propping up the scaffolding of falsehood that had been reared in England to erect the structure of Protestantism. Unlike the vast majority of his fellow countries. trymen, he had studied with impartiality history of the middle ages. "His great it in his historic writings," says "Cham-a Encyclopedia," "consist in the exten-Encyclopedia," "consist in the exten-use made by him of original documents, by an ardent partisan to have nearly caused

by aid of which he not only himself very much enlarged our acquaintance with the history and social aspects of the middle ages, but pointed out to others the advantage to be derived from a careful study of the original sources of information now known to abound among our public records. "History of

In the preface to his "History of Normandy and England" this learned and impartial historian writes: "Our British disparagement of the middle ages has been exceedingly enhanced by our grizzled ecclestastical church historians of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. * * These standard works, accepted and received as canonical books, have tainted the nobility of our national mind. An adequate paralle to their bitterness, their shabbiness, their shirking, their habitual disregard of honor We now come to the consideration of a France or in Great Britain, Voltaire or

false statements of Herodotus and Rollin were the result of want of information, not withstanding the most honest and indefatigable research. Let us see how the matter stands with the Roman historian Livy. others, owing to a cause of error which we

FAULTY JUDGMENTS. The third source of falsehood in history is presumption, a readiness to pronounce judgments on facts and persons have never studied the matter with ordi-nary earnestness. Let us take an ex-ample from the writings of one who has dared to look further into the records of those ages than almost any other English or American historian. I speak of Henry Hallam, Hallam, I must premise, I look upon as an unusually earnest man, deeply prejudiced indeed against what he calls ie old superstitions, but disposed to be onest, and, to show his good will, making any admissions injurious to his own party for instance, he honestly declares that Persecution is the deadly original sin of he reformed churches, that which cools very honest man's zeal for the cause in reportion as his reading becomes more xtensive." (Const. Hist., vi., p. 95.) He ven admits that "an historian whose blas as certainly not unfavorable to Protest ninm confesses that all endeavors so weak to overcome the aversion of the people toward reformation, and even inti-mates that German troops were sent for from Calais on account of the bigotry with which the bulk of the nation adhered to the old superstition." Then he adds: "This somewhat a humiliating admission, tha Protestant faith was imposed upon cestors by a foreign army. hat he should brand as bigotry the fidelit Ith which the English people generally lung to the religion of their fathers shows ne of the most anxious to claim the prais

UNFOUNDED CONDEMNATION. But I have introduced him to my readrs to exemplify the liberty with which ven late and prominent historians conepponents without knowledge of the without carnest investigation. The ontempt in which the great writers of the middle ages are held by English readers generally is owing to this source of error. Hallam, in his Middle Ages (p. 428), states that the great theologians, St. Anselm, Peter Lembard, Albertus Magnus, St. homas Aquinas, etc., the "scholastics" as ney were called, "did not understand "Arisaith. They learned his peculiar nomen-lature, and fancied that he had given hom realities. • • • Their disputes coninually turned upon questions either in olving absurdity and contradiction, or a cast inscrutable by human comprehension This is the verdict of this learned hi orlan. But what is his authority? Whence has he derived this "record of the past for the instruction and guidance of present nd future generations." For that is wha history ought to be. He very coolly con-cesses, "most of these works are unknown o me except by repute." It is on such tions, disgracing, as Palgrave tells us, the pages of history in England during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, have been perpetuated in our literature to the present day. This is the material of which or text books in history, taught in ou high schools and colleges, are very ge rally made up. The same learned and impartial witness of the ages" says again This scholastic philosophy has since passe way and been forgetten. * Fee way and been forgetten. Few, yery few, for a hundred years past have proken the repose of the immense works of the schoolmen." (ib.) Why, the truth s that this scholastic philosophy has more otaries today than all other schools of phil-sophy put together. More works by the keenest minds of the present generation nation of it than on the speculations of Kant, Fichte, Locke, Descartes, Schelling, Hegel, Spencer, etc. Those folios which Hallam was so much afraid to open are in

gy, and afford the text for the profes-s' learned lectures. IGNORANCE OF TRUE HISTORY. How can historians of Hallam's stand-ng be so ignorant on these matters? The ason is that the English-speaking peoples have isolated themselves from the Catholic world at large, and ignored its existence as the Chinese despise as barbarians all that do not belong to the Celestial empire. Of course, Protestants do not study the works of the great Catholic writers of the middle ages; the folios of the latter do not appear in English librations all or signatures of the latter do not appear in English librations. ies at all, or stand there covered with dus and cobwebs, but such is far from being the case in the greater portion of the civi-lized world. Contempt, then, for the learn-ing of the middle ages is commensurate with

nany seminaries and universities at present the text books of philosophy and the

norance of true history. While every new-fangled notion in educaional matters is made the subject of dis cussion and commendation, and of liberal patronage and appropriation of funds all over the country, we live in the darkest ignorance of the methods which in the middle age produced those keen intellects whose works are now the despair of most modern minds for they were in the intellectual world what their contemporary architects were as compared to the builders of our modern churches There is a most learned modern book on the schools and scholars of the middle ages, called "Christian Schools and Scholars." A. T. Drane, a work of rare merit and most extensive research. You would imagine that every considerable library would have a copy or two of this literary treasure for the use of earnest readers, especially of educators But when some years ago a lecturer wished to refer to its pages in so populous and en-lightened a city as Cincinnati, he found there was not a single copy of it in any of its libraries. The settled conviction that no good can be expected to come from those dark ages decides every mind but the most learned against taking the trouble of even glancing into their records; and besides most of these records are not accessible yet

to the general reader. Hallam has, on the whole, rendered very valuable services to the illumination of that dark corner of the world's history. If he has aided blindly to perpetuate many ancient misconceptions on the subject, he has on the other hand exposed many falsehoods and dispelled many clouds of ignorance. In par-ticular, he has proved beyond a doubt, in-consistent though the fact appears to be with his other views, that the Reformation, (ar from rekindling the lamp of learning i siderable peril, that, through the authority of Carlostadt or even of Luther, the lessons of Crocus or Mosellanus would be totally forgotten."

LITERATURE DETERIORATED. What a revelation to the general reader Luther, the master mind of the Reformation, the leader of those who are venerated as the apostles of modern civilization, the brighout among those luminaries that he dispelled the darkness of the middle ages. Luther and his associates are here confessed

the loss of classical literature and of the learning accumulated for generations. The work of destruction was continued by their successors. Spaking of the state of literature in Germany a century later, he writes (v. II. p. 25):

"The state of literature in a general sense had become deteriorated throughout the empire. This was most perceptible, or perhaps only perceptible in its most learned provinces," though he confesses that literature had been little to lose and something was gained." That this something gained was knowledged further on. But let us pause a moment and consider the passage just quoted; it is quite characteristic of Hallam's streally an immense gain is grudgingly accommendated in style. He attempts to tell the truth; he would not like to be convicted of having done anything else; in fact he would not will-style. He attempts to tell the truth; he would not like to be convicted of having done anything else; in fact he would not will-style. He astempts to tell the truth; he would not like to be convicted of having done anything else; in fact he would not will-style. He astempts to tell the truth; he would not like to be convicted of having done anything else; in fact he would not will-style. He astempts to tell the truth; he would not like to be convicted of having done anything else; in fact he would not will-style tell a falsehood, I believe, And yet, he cannot make up his mind to tell the truth is traightforwardly. He squirms and wriggles in history till he has fairly contradicted him. the loss of classical literature and of self. For how can the state of literature the learning accumulated for generations, have deteriorated throughout the empire and The work of destruction was continued yet not have deteriorated in the less-learned

Review of the Week's Events For the Week Ending Feb. 20. FOREIGN.

CUBA-February 18: General Roloff, Cuban insurgent chief, whose ball was forfeited Wednesday at Baltimore, reported aboard steamer Bermuda, just steamed out from Delaware breakwater, near Philadelphia, ostensibly bound for the Bermudas. ENGLAND-February 14: Sir Alfred Milner appointed to succeed Sir Hercules Robinson as governor of Cape Colony. February 16: Jameson raid investigation begun at London and Cecil Rhodes put on stand,

TURKEY-February 14: Christians begin bombardment of Canea; Prince George Berowich, governor of Crete, resigns and takes refuge with Greek consul. February Powers demand withdrawal of Grecian naval and military forces from Island of Crete within forty-eight hours. February 17: Advices from Uskub report departure of three Turkish battalions with seven guns enroute for Greek frontier; council of ministers at Constantinople decides to leave pacification of Crete to the powers. February 18: Greek consulates on Island of Crete remove Greek flag on representations of foreign powers. February 19: Turkish garrison at Fort Voukolles dislodged by Greek artillery; British war ships prevent landing of Greek troops from the Alphios; national league at Athens threatens to provoke general uprising of Hellenists if Europe tries to cancel the union of Crete with Greece. February 20; Greek army attacked Turkish outposts at Plategia, compelling Turks to retire.

OTHER LANDS-February 16: Sanitary conference opens at Venice to consider preventive measures against spreading of bubonic plague; government at Calcutta for-bids pilgrims from Bombay and Sind to embark on any ship at any port in India; Bombay dispatch reports 1,835 deaths for week ending February 12. February 17: Rusda reported preparing for war; Senator Wolcott assured by prominent German thorities at Berlin that Germany would join in a bimetallic convention, provided Great Britain and France joined. February 18: Agra dispatch reports mortality awful at Banda in Bundelkund province, in India, almost one-third of population receiving relief and number expected to be doubled; 9,001 cases of bubon's plague already reported in Bombay presidency, out of which 8,006 deaths have occurred. February 19: Bolivian government increased all import tariffs 25 per cent, beginning with January 1 last; insurgent town Silang, in Philippine islands, bombarded and captured by Spanlards, with insurgent loss of 500 killed.

CONGRESSIONAL.

HOUSE-February 15: Sundry civil appropriation bill carrying \$50,641,743 passed inder suspension of rules, the bill including \$200,000 for the Transmississippi Exposition. February 17: Bill passed for opening, occupying and using reservoir sites for

SENATE-February 13. Resolution passes directing the secretary of navy to provide conveyance at San Francisco for shipment of contributions to famine districts of India. February 16: Bill introduced providing for national bureau of incorporation, to be attached to the Treasury department. February 17: Bill to restrict immigration passed.

LEGISLATIVE.

NEBRASKA-HOUSE-February 17: Speaker Gaffin Introduces a bill to permit county agricultural societies to participate in Transmississippi Exportion and provid-ing for expense of county exhibits; bills introduced appropriating \$10,000 to enable Ne-braska State Board of Agriculture to make exhibit at Transmississippi Exposition, compelling all railroad companies to erect and maintain union passenger depots where four or more roads enter the same city, reducing salaries of county commissioners and reducing salaries of county attorneys. February 18: Committee investigating state offices reports irregularities in method of conducting state auditor's office and also a balance due and unpaid to the state of \$23,334.80, and on part of State Treasurer J. S. Bartley a failure to turn over to his successor or in any manner account for, as required by law, the sum of \$537,762.93; bills introduced to invalidate contracts aiming to lessen free competition, or to advance, lower or control prices, to comsel insurance companies to pay full amount of insurance written in policy, when entire loss occurs; to prohibit taking of notes, bonds, contracts or other obligations in writing payable in other than lawful money of the United States, and to prohibit all games of chance, gambling devices, etc. February 19: Transmississippi Exposition ill made special order for Tuesday afternoon next.

SENATE-February 17: Bills passed defining cruelty to children and for guardian ship in certain cases, prohibiting employment of children under 12 years in store, office, shop, factory or mine for more than three months in any year, authorizing cities and villages to receive gifts for purposes of parks or public grounds and accrediting graduates of University of Nebraska as qualified teachers within meaning of school aw of the state. February 19: Contest over seat of Senator Evans decided in favo

intestant, John Jeffcont. OTHER STATES-February 15: Bill introduced in Wyoming house calling for appointment of a Transmississippi Exposition commission and to provide an appropriation for an exhibit at the exposition. February 15: Joint investigation of Kansas City stock yards by representatives of Kansas and Missouri legislatures breaks up without eaching any agreement. February 17: Dispensary law passes lower house in ington: Dakota senate passes a liquor license bill. February 18: Senator Kyle relected United States senator from Dakota. February 19: Lower house in Oklahoma defeats woman suffrage bill after hot contest; Missouri senate passes bill appropriating \$1.800 for monument over grave of Daniel Boone and wife, in Warren county.

POLITICAL.

February 15: Nomination of John Y. Ostrander of Alaska as commissioner for disrict of Alaska confirmed. February 17; Governor Holcomb of Nebraska issues special nessage confirming the report that Treasurer Bartley had falled to turn over the state money in his possession, leaving over \$500,000 unaccounted for. February 18: H. M. Sullivan, free silver republican, of Broken Bow, Neb., appointed to succeed William L. Greene as judge of the Twelfth judicial district of Nebraska; United States semate confirmed nomination of W. H. Munger of Fremont, Neb., as judge of federal court for district of Nebraska; nomination of Charles F. Amidon as United States district indge for district of North Dakota confirmed. February 19: Hon. James A. Gary of Ellicott City, Md., announces tender of place in next cabinet; city council of Nebraska City removes Mayor Stahlhut from office for "official misconduct and obstructing business of city council.'

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL.

NEW ENTERPRISES-February 13: Company organized to complete canal of St. Mary Falls Water Power company at expense of \$3,000,000.
BANK FAILURES-February 13: Merchants' National bank, Helena, Mont., last shows deposits \$1,550,000, loans \$1,260,000, cash and exchange \$462,000, capital stock 250,000, surplus \$125,000; State Trust and Savings bank, West Superior, Wis., capital

MERCANTILE FAILURES-February 15: W. H. Brown, Arapahoe, Neb., general merchandise. February 19: The George H. McCall company, Wilmington, Del., coal and builders' material, confesses judgments \$38.561; The Rhodes-Morion company, Ronceverte, W. Va., general merchandise, liabilities \$49,000, assets, \$20,000.

CRIMES AND CASUALTIES.

FIRES-February 14: Building occupied by Pittsburg Post, loss on contents \$60,000; fully insured, loss on building \$20,000; two bridges and elevator at Elwood, Ind., loss heavy, set on fire by floating waste oil. February 15: Stationery establishment of Lathron-Rhoads-McCain, Des Moines, Ia., loss on stock \$10,000, insurance \$7,000, loss or building \$25,000. Insurance \$18,000. February 16: Plymouth Roller Flour mill, Mason City, Ia., total loss, \$15,600. Insurance \$4,500. February 17: Seven buildings on De Mers venue at East Grand Forks, Minn., loss \$50,000, partially insured; F. L. Pade & Son's planing mill at Hastings, Neb., loss \$9,000, no insurance. February 19: Lake Shore & Michigan Southern railway elevator at Toledo, O., loss \$355,000, fully insured.

ACCIDENTS—February 14: Freeman mine at Gouverneur, N. Y., caved in, causing leath of six entombed miners. February 19: Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Cicles and three children burned to death at Cleveland, O.; Mrs. Thomas J. Mollow, Leavenworth, Kan. et fire to her clothes in replenishing fire, dying a few hours later; Judge E. W. Thomas, Falls City, Neb., run down and killed by B. & M. freight train; thirteen children injured in rush following alarm of fire at Everett school building in Boston.

MURDERS-February 13: J. C. Long and wife of Mason City, Ia., indicted for murder of their 18-year-old daughter, Leah. February 15: W. Grayson, farmer in Sevier county, Kentucky, shot and killed by white caps. February 16: Arthur Duestrow, St. Louis' millionaire murderer, hanged at Union, Mo. February 17: James Ford, charged with murder of Harry Oswald at South Omaha, acquitted and case against Mike Ford withdrawn; Mrs. Anna Sopher, charged with manslaughter, at Nebraska City, acquitted; Anthony Shupe and wife murdered and/robbed at Tyndall, S. D. February 18: Six persons murdered and frightfully multilated on ranch of Rev. Thomas Spicer, near Winema, N. D., supposed to be work of Indians from Standing Rock reservation. February 19: Sheriff Dow of Eddy, N. M., shot by two unknown men, died from wound; two men charged with murder of Joel Muck of Independence. Kan., arrested at Vinita, I. T.; Daniel McCarthy, printing house employe, hanged at Chicago for murder of his wife; Theodore S. Willis, colored, hanged at Newcastle, Del., for murder of infant child that had become "a burden" to him.

SUICIDES-February 16: Carl Jepson Bonde, Omaha, hanged in outbuilding; Rudolph Newman of Chicago, put bullet through his brain in an Omaha hotel. February 18: John McGuire, Des Moines, Ia., ex-chief fire department, took arsenie, despondent over heavy losses in recent bank failures and loss of position. February 18: W. Adams, Chicago, known for working one of greatest corners on onts at Chicago in 1874, despondent through poverty and loss of position. Pebruary 19: Freiherr Francis Xavier Ludwig Maxmillan von Oeyen of Schloss, Johannesburg, Bavaria, German ince, and refugee of revolution of 1848, took morphine at Detroit, Mich., aged 72.

OTHER CRIMES-February 14: Firm of alleged agents for North American Publishing company, under name of Welsa & Frankci, exposed in fraudulently obtaining money from the public at Omaha. February 15: United States supreme court affirmed verdict of district court sentencing Joseph R. Dunlop, Chicago newspaper publisher, to two years' imprisonment for sending obscene matter through mails; gambling dens

of Chinatown at San Francisco raided and 500 Celectials arrested. MORTUARY.

February 13. General Jo Shelby, near Adrian, Mo., aged 65; John Randolph Tucker, Lexington, Va., prominent lawyer and ex-congressman, February 14: Charles Schueth, sr., oldest postmaster in state, West Point, Neb., aged 83; William P. St. John, New York, banker and treasurer democratic national committee, aged 50. February 16: Isaac Pelott, Mackinack Island, Mich., witnessed capture of Fort Mackinac by British in 1814, aged 23; Henry Miller, Miller, S. D., founder of town, aged 72. February 16: Rev. John N. Murdock, D.D. L. L. D., Clifton Springs, N. Y., hohorary secrelary 16: Rev. John N. Murdock, D.D. L. L. D., Clifton Springs, N. 1., Robotaly relary American Baptist Missionary union. February 17: General Alfred Pleasanton, Washington, D. C. February 18: Rev. Levi C. Schelp, Doylestown, Pa., aged 90; William M. Hammond, Woodward, Okl., register United States land office. Washington, D. C. February 18: Rev. Levi C. Schelp, Doylestown, Pa., aged 60; Judge William M. Hämmond, Woodward, Okl., register United States land office. February 19: Lady Katherine Grantley, London, daughter of William H. McVicar of New York; Mercer Beasley, Trenton, N. J., chief justice supreme court of New Jersey, aged St; Augustus S. Seymour, New York, judge United States district court for eastern district of North Carolina, home at New Berne, N. C.

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passed by any of their later operas. And the reason is not far to seek. "Pinafore" and the mountebank boing a man of reads resources and wishing to promote her hap-piners, forms a plan to disquire himself and marked an entirely new departure in light opera, and surprised and delighted the English speaking world, which was weary of Offenbach and his tawdry fellows. The score of "Pinafore" was the work of one of the first of English composers; and the libratio was full of the delicate wit and quaint perversions of words and situation which have since been accepted as the undisputed Gilbertian trademark. Neither was so difficult of mastery as to frighten amateur performers away, and both were of a nature to grasp and hold the favor of the masses of amusement lovers.

No such general explanation, however, of

the unfailing popularity of "Pinafore" is sufficient to account fully for the genuine success which attended the efforts of the Mendelssohn Choral society in the latest performance of the pretty opera in Omaha. Those two assume their costumes as street singer and mountebank, and at a dramatic That may well be allowed to stand upon its own large deserts. It is decidedly credit able to the musical resources of Omaha, and to the Mendelssohn society in particular. that a second public performance, given er tirely by amateurs, can conscientiously be praised for doing fair justice to what after all no trivial nor easy work. It is hoped that other operatic productions may be forthcoming from this source. Indeed it is said that "The Chimes of Normandy" ill be immediately put in rehearsal, and there are several other light operas, not outeide the present capacity of the society, which will doubtless be considered in time. The audience yesterday was very large, a fashionable as need be, and altogether cold. That the performers did well in the face of n almost total and quite inexplicable lack on athusiasm in the front of the house is de idedly to their additional credit. Number after number, solos, duets, trios, quartets and choruses, well enough sung to have been generously applauded, were received either with disheartening silence or with a little faint-hearted acclamation from the boxes and front orchestra rows. Nothing was rede-manded, save only the "bell trio," and that apparently for other reasons than for the excellence of its rendition. Flowers were carried up in profusioon after the first act. early all the principals being remembered. Both Miss Dickinson and Miss Hoagland re surprising their friends by the rapid and symmetrical development of their voices, in stage speaking as well as singing, and by the growing strength which experience is add-ing to their performances in point of acting. e of Miss Dickinson's "business" was so good that it needed no improvement, notably the by-play of the dialogue with Raiph which preceded the "Refrain, Audacious Tar" duet. She looked the part of Josephine, and, barring a little nervousness at the outset, was juite easy and natural throughout. Miss Hoagland, too, afforded pleasure to both eye ind ear as Buttercup. She deserved an en-core after her introductory solo, and again for the duet with the captain in the second act; and her correct conception of the part was well carried out in detail. Mr. Cope-land was a really admirable Sir Joseph. His

eard-chewed a quid in the most lifelike nanner possible to conceive and as if much epended upon his unremitting activity. A few more public Pinafore performance each showing the same improvement over the last, would soon bring the local artists

lose up to the professional rank.

ine sonorous voice has often been heard and

admired on former occasions. He acted the

role with self-possession and excellent effect. The Captain Corcoran of Mr. Tate also de-

serves high praise as a dignified and vocally creditable piece of work, and Mr. Wheeler as Ralph sang with his usual sweetness and

good teste and made love with an ardor pleas ant to see. Mrs. Johnston was entirely ade-

f Hebe, and Mr. Baldr'ge for his perform-

ince of the boatswain's song was applauded

as heartily as any one in the course of the afternoon. Mr. Haverstock acted Deadeye

with commendable self-restraint and true

comic spirit and sang effectively the music which fell to him. The chorus was large and good and filled the stage with gay and pretty costumes. All worked hard and con-stantly for the general welfare. One hardy

ar in particular-he with the bare arms

ato to the requirements of the small part

A large, orderly and apparently leased crowd attended the opening of the Creighton Music hall last night. The new vaudeville resort will be conducted by Paxon & Burgess, an announcement which of the entertainment provided. Those who appeared last night and who will occupy the stage of the hall on every right of this week except Sunday were the Hartmans, Baldwin and Duncan, Harry Osgood, Harry Brown, the Alabama quartet, Zomi, Dullaney and Clifford, H. Pennaka, H. C. Niles and Grace Harvey. The performance, judging from that of last night, will be worth con-siderably more than the modest admission ee exacted at the door.

The patropage bestowed upon Mr. Daniels nd his sprightly comic opera at the reignton during the first half of the week oes to disprove the hard times stories which have been too prevalent of late. It would seem that now, as heretofore, Omaha theater-goers have money to spend for entertainments which they like. It is a pity that they have not liked more of the attract ons which have already been presented o them during the season, for by neglecting heir opportunities in this respect they have missed several rare treats. But the Daniels engagement will go far to rid this city of the bad name which it was rapidly acquiring, and it is hoped that from now on the really excellent entertainment offered by the local ouses may receive the attention it deserves.

The Paiges at Boyd's have not done as well financially as the merit of their per-formances deserved. It is hoped, how-ever, that they will not be discouraged by this first experience of Omaha, but will come again. They will do better another time, in all probability. The Woodward company, which the Paiges followed too closely for their own good did not leap at ice to its present popularity in Omaha, but came several times before it began to pack the houses. There are some very clever people among the Paiges, and Mr. English in particular would be an ornament to a uch more pretentious company.

That veteran dramatic critic and always That veteran dramatic critic and always acceptable writer on stage topics, Stephen Fiske, discusses Francis Wilson in the January number of The Theatre as "the king of comic opera in America." Local patrons of the playhouse will be able this week to judge whether or not the characterization is deserved. Mr. Wilson has not been seen here for several years, and his coming at this time, with an opera in which oming at this time, with an opera in which e has been quite successful elsewhere, and ringing a company said to be superior to any which ever supported him, is an event the importance of which is likely to be generally recognized. Lovers of comic opera have had their appetites for this kind of fare rather stimulated than the reverse by their recent experience with "The Wizard of the Nile," and it is probable that "Half a King" will be received with equal

Clay Clement has been dangerously ill for

Coming Events.

The first scene of "Half a King," which is

The success achieved by W. S. Gilbert of the river Seine. A band of mountebanks and Arthur Sullivan in their first conspicu-Pierette, a street singer, his adopted daughter, and Mistigris, a junior associate, who rearns for the love of the young singer. Pierette has an advanture with Honore, dashing young fellow, and these two fall it love with each other. Honore is the son o the duke de Chatesu-Margaux, who has planned for him a marriage with Lucinde, daughter of the duke de la Roche-Trumeau. a country nobleman of some wealth, while the duke de Chalcau-Margaux a country hooleman of some wealth, white the duke de Chaleau-Margaux is heavily in debt, even to his family servants. Piercite tells Tireschappe her ad-venture and of her infatuation for Honore.

> Mistigris, welcome the country nobleman and his daughter, confine them and present themselves and Fierette at the home of the take de Chateau-Margaux in their places and hasten a marriage between Honore and The second act finds them enjoying the hospitality of the Duke us Charles Margaux, when to their great astonishment the real Duke de la Roche-Trumeau, his appear, and secretary appear, having escaped. By a rare stroke of good fortune Tireschappe and Mistigris see them first alone. At a critical moment, just as Pier-ette enters in bridal dress, Lucinde confronts her and upbraids her so justly that Pierette letermines to renounce Honore and accept the hand of the over faithful Mistigris.

moment they appear, and Pierctte explains the deception, and, with her companion, is Sected from the palace.

The last scene above the celebrated Court of Miracles," a low quarter of Paris frequented by the seum of the city. The westling of Pierette to Mistigria is about to take place in true Bohemian fashion. The Duke de la Roche-Trumeau, his daughter and accretary have been brought here by the mountebanks and are subjected to many dignities. The arrival of the police and he Duke de Chateau-Margaux and party nterrupts the wedding ceremony, and all the vagationds are placed under arrest. Ex-ment deeply affects the Duke de la Roche tells the story of Picrette, the foundling, to whose baby clothing there was pinned half of a king of diamonds. This state-Frumeau, who produces the other half of the card, which fits Tireschappe's place exactly, and it is discovered that Pierette is duke's daughter by an early attach-t. So he settles half his fortune upon she is betrothed to Henore and immunity is granted to her mountebank com-panions; while Tireschappe and Mistigris form a partnership which has the assurance of success given by their close connection with the nobility of France.

The coming engagement of this popular star and his supporting company of eighty comic opera favorites should prove a succeroful one, it being Francis Wilson's first appearance in Omaha in five years. Seats will be placed on sale tomorrow morning at o'clock. But one matinee will be given during the engagement, on Saturday.

The low prices prevailing at several of the recent engagements here recommend them so strongly to local theater goers, that the result has been an increased attendance, which has made the manager of Boyd's theater deem it advisable to have another week of popular prices, and in looking about for a company he considered himself fortunate in securing the Moore-Livingston company, which is styled by its admirers as the "king of repertory," to fill the coming week, opening with a matinee today when the Irish comedy drama "The Maid o Arran" will be presented. Tonight the celebrated labor drama "The Lost Paradise" will be the drawing card. The management of this organization has in-vested much money in stage paraphernalla and takes special pains to set its produc ions adequately. In conjunction with each tramatic presentation moving pictures will This will be the last week of this machine in the west, as it has been ordered back to New York after the Omaha engagement. The change of bill for each performance will be announced in these co

Roland Reed and his supporting compan Rolling Reed and his supporting company including Isadore Rush, will play a two night engagement at the Creighton, commercing Tucsday, March 2, presenting for the first time here the new comedy fram the pen of George H. Broadhurst, called "The Wrong Mr. Wright," which has acoved-decided hit and in which this popula omedian is said to have found a congent comedian is said to have found a congental role, giving him excellent opportunities. On the second night of the engagement a benefit will be given by the local lodge Benevo-cont Protective Order of Elks which should be largely attended. Seats will be placed on sale during the latter portion of the

Lewis Morrison is underlined for an early

John E. Henshaw, May Ten Breeck and their supporting company of comedians will open a two-night engagement at the Creighton with a popular-priced matines today, presenting for the first time in this city their latest comedy success, "Dodge at the French Ball," which is said to be eve more annualing than former popular produc tions with which these well known player have been identified. The new comedy, i is said, gives ample opportunity for the introduction of many of the latest musical successes and a number of dances which are announced as both novel and pretty. Three acts of thorough enjoyment are prom-The roster includes a number of well known players—Frank David, William Blaisdell, Clara Lavine and Carlotta, being well remembered. A special holiday mat nee will be given tomorrow.

Miss Alethea Luce, daughter of the late Mr. Luce of the old firm of Marder, Luce & Co., is a member of the Roland Reed company, which will visit Omaha next week. Miss Luce has been on the stage about two

At the Nebraska Music hall this week will be seen Emory & Russell, in musical spe-cialties; May Ellsworth, Mae and Maud Dayton, Nellie Bond, the Fantas, tumblers and fancy dancers; May Cameron, Dolly Bishop, parody singer, and the three La Renos in their balancing act.

The first of a series of elecutionary r citals was given by the pupils of Mrs. W. N Dorward at her residence, 623 North Nine teenth street, last Friday evening. They were assisted by Miss Mary E. Latey, voenliet A large number of friends witnesse the following excellent program:

Vocal Solo-Invocation

Miss Mary E. Latey.
The Second Trial

Miss Adda Ward.
A Story of the Civil War.

Mrs. Marie M. Kay.
Vocal Solo-Greeting at Night.

Miss Mary E. Latey.
The Tiger Lily's Hace.

Intermission Anon Intermission Nature Sketches...

The following children will have promi nent parts in the "Fairy Play" to be given in the near future under the direction of Mrs. Wertz for the benefit of the Children's home: Vivian Rector will appear as the fairy queen; Katheryn Hobble, as Elma, the mortal child; Borothy Squires, as Eima, the fairy child; Frances Riley, as Puck; Dot week past with pneumonia and has been McKenna, as Moonbeam, and Marion Hughes bliged to cancel all dates for the immediate as the leader of the fairies. A large numbure. His many friends in Omaha Join in ber of other children will also take part a hearty wish that the big-bodied and big-hearted fellow, the true gentleman and true artist, may soon be able to return to a stage which is the poorer by reason of his will be given.

"Handy Andy" will be produced by local talent at Germar ia hall next Thursday eveno be presented by Francis Wilson and his ompany at the Creighton for three nights, to the support of the Sacred Heart church choir. The cast is as follows: "Handy of the cast i commencing Thursday, Yebruary 25, repre-sents a pleasure ground in Paris by the side Andy," J. Bowler, "Squire Egan," D. J.

Hurley; "Squire O'Grady." P. Cowan; "Mr. Murphy," J. J. Ford; 'Dick Dawson, W. Coffman; 'Mr. Furlong,' P. Henste P. Henste. "Rdward O'Connor." B. E.

"W. Jacobberger; "Farrell,"
"McQuade," W. Jacobb W. Jacobb Jacobberger; Riley; "Mad Margaret Riley; Rooney," Margaret Riley; "Mad Julia Gannon; "Fanny Dawson," Frances Garrity, Musical selection, Phil-barmonic quartet: Charles F. Moriarty, first tenor; John D. Brennan, second tenor; James P. Hush, baritone; James C. Swift, Instrumental music, Apollo Zither-Song, "Marie Antoinette," P. Hentebeck. Fancy club swinging, W. J. Mur-

MRS. M'ADOO MUST GIVE UP CHILD.

St. James Orphanage Awarded Possession of Mary Plankett. The habeas corpus case brought to secure ossession of little Mary Plunkett was decided yesterday by Judge Baker, the court instructing Attorney T. J. Mahoney to draw an order, placing the little girl in the custody of the sisters of the St. James orphanage.

This is the case which was commenced several weeks ago, the sisters of the or-phanage applying for an order upon Mrs. Mary McAdoo to produce the little girl. The papers filed in the case show that James Plunkett, father of Mary, placed her and her brother and sister, all of them being of tender age, in charge of the sisters at the orphanage before his death. After his death two of the children were placed with a wealthy farmer near Atkinson, in this state. and were there about a year when the farmer asked that he also be given the custody of tittle Mary, the remaining child. At this point Mrs. McAdoo came into the affair and obtained possession of the girl by promising to take her to the depot the next morning to take the train for Akmson. Mrs. McAdoo refused to surrender the little one, saying she was not satisfied that the home pro-vided for her was a suitable one. The habeas orpus proceedings followed and the prelimhearing resulted in the child traed over to the orphanage pending the nat hearing. This hearing was had yes-erday and the little one will now be sent at once to the fairly near Atkinson, where preparations have been made to adopt all three children and have been delayed to await the arrival of Mary.

CONTRACT GOES TO MURPHY. Ills Bid for Repaying South Sixteenth

Street Accepted. The contract for the South Sixteenth treet repaying was awarded to Hugh Murphy by the Board of Public Works yeserday. This is on his bid of \$1.95% for lass A, \$1.63 for class C and \$1.35 for vitried brick. The contract provides that the out of the street complete is not to exceed \$1.64 per yard.

ROBBERS HAD AN EAR FOR MUSIC. Davis Gang Charged with Stealing

nn Organ. Yesterday a complaint was sworn out gainst Charles Wilson, one of the so-called tang of Davis robbers, charging him with tealing an organ out of the school house in District No. 57, this county. The leatru-ment was found in the Davis house. The complaint was sworn to by S. P. Murman, one of the residents of the district, and was filed before Justice of the Peace Sockrell.
Ed Stone, who lives on the Q street read.

out three miles west of South Omaha, yeserday identified several pieces of harness which were found on Davis' premises. The was stolen from his place on the ight of December 21 last.

Uchel Can't Appreciate a Joke. The pranks of mischievous boys have comelled August Uebel, who lives in the vicinity Eleventh and Nicholas streets, to call in the assistance of the authorities. Usbel and its little but appear to have furnished the ads in his neighborhood all sorts of fun. The boys have thrown stones, tin cans and other missiles at both at all times of the day nd night. Once the boys stuffed the chimner f Uebel's house full of rags and the old man vas nearly smoked out. They made another uslaught upon him Friday. Yesterday he caused warrants to be issued for arrest of Billy Martin and A. Coleman, warrants to be issued for the he charge of disturbing the peace.

Attended with Fatal Results. The reports from the health department ow a large amount of co-called "grip, which is largely induced by the damp and variable weather. In many cases people are sick and scarcely know what is the matter with them, and the trouble is called grip" for want of a better name. A num disease has developed into pneumonia with fatal results.

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pearance? Will your old one carry you through without disgracing you? From a money standpoint you had better buy now. We're offering a discount of 20% off our Regular Prices in February.

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